

Intermediate Board For Redistricting BH Schools

By JERRY KRIEGER

County-Farm Editor

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The Berrien Intermediate school board last night turned down the petition of a third area of the Benton Harbor district to transfer out, but then all the board members indicated individually they favor some "orderly form of redistricting" the Benton Harbor district.

After denying the petition of the west North Shore-Lafayette area to transfer to St. Joseph by a 4-to-1 vote, the board members put themselves squarely on the record in favor of redistricting Benton Harbor under some type of plan Benton Harbor voters will approve.

REALIGNMENT PLAN

Intermediate Board Chairman Ralph Lehman urged George Welch, chairman of the Blue Ribbon committee studying solutions to the Benton Harbor problems, to hasten the written report of the committee. The committee the night before had approved some undefined form of redistricting and Welch said he had since determined it was generally conceded

to be the job of the steering committee to draft a realignment plan. Welch was present at the Intermediate board meeting last night as a petitioner in the North Shore area.

Welch pressed the board members last night, speaking as Blue Ribbon chairman, to spell out what kind of a redistricting plan they would accept, or at least indicate their criteria for an acceptable plan of dividing up the district.

Board members did not spell out details of what they would ask of a redistricting plan, except that Lehman and Lawrence Peachey both said they would want a method that would require a vote of the people of the Benton Harbor district.

Intermediate Superintendent Doyle Barkmeier suggested one method that provides for a vote of the district electors, and would not be subject to approval or disapproval by the state board of education.

Any combination of the areas that have petitioned or want to petition for transfer could submit joint petitions, so that the valuation of the area involved represented more than 10

per cent of the Benton Harbor total valuation. State law requires a petition of such proportions to be put to a vote of the entire district, provided the Intermediate board approves. Barkmeier said the outcome of such a vote would not be subject to state board action. Receiving districts would have no vote.

ORDERLY PATTERN

Without exception, the Intermediate board members said any division of the district must follow an orderly pattern.

Member Adrian VanGinhoven of Sawyer added that he would want further study of any plan to determine the effects on the receiving districts, and the educational and financial soundness of the proposals.

Welch responded to VanGinhoven's comment with an observation that the Blue Ribbon committee had neither the time nor technical ability to make such a study for any plan the committee might develop. Several times he asked the

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 6)



PRESIDENT'S COUSIN ASKS HELP: Kathy Timberlake, 24, who is President Nixon's second cousin, has appealed to him because she is "only getting \$27 a month" on welfare and hopes he can get her more. Miss Timberlake, shown in her Cotati, Calif., apartment, is the daughter of Dr. P. F. Timberlake of Newport Beach, Calif., a first cousin of the President on the Milhouse side of the family. She claims she is in poor health. She said in her letter that, "my life's existence has become too unbearable." She sent a carbon copy of her letter to several newspapers and television stations. (AP Wirephoto)

Zollar Fighting For Residency Clause Return

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Citing Michigan's extreme money problems, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee—Republican Charles Zollar of Benton Harbor—is spearheading a move to clamp down on soaring welfare costs by reinstating a one-year residency requirement for recipients.

The action is similar to a move in New York; taking advantage of what some consider a legal loophole in the 1969 U.S. Supreme Court ruling which struck down residency as a requirement for financial help.

Zollar's proposal, prepared for introduction with the support of 15 colleagues, would reinstate the one-year residency

requirement for the next five years.

In addition, it would provide that the state could grant no welfare funds to someone who has lived in Michigan for under one year—but could pick up the tab for his or her return trip to whatever state or country that person had lived in for one year prior to coming to Michigan.

In other budget developments Thursday, Gov. William Milliken issued a formal executive order implementing some \$30 million worth of budget adjustments he proposed to help avert a deficit for the current fiscal year.

The order reduces by \$10 million the state grant to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System and makes a \$20 million adjustment in capital outlay reserves.

MOVES APPROVED

Both moves were approved earlier this week by the House and Senate Appropriations committees and do not require endorsement of the full legislature.

A third plank in Milliken's program to avoid red ink, speeding up payment of premium taxes by out-of-state in-

surance companies, is now pending in Senate committee and must receive approval from both House and Senate to take effect.

The negotiations on next year's budget levels continued today with discussions of education financing. Leaders of

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)



BATHTUB SNAPPER: Al Davis, a Heath Co. technical manual illustrator, swears this live bathtub-size alligator snapping turtle weighs 82 pounds. He netted it and three smaller ones at Lagrue Bayou near Stuttgart, Ark., Tuesday morning on vacation. He brought his prize to the twin cities and has sold it to Deer Forest for exhibition. Davis, of Route 2, Berrien Springs, says it was his biggest turtle catch. The second-largest was a 31-pound snapper from the St. Joseph river near Berrien Springs. Arkansas snappers are reputed to grow to 150 pounds, he said. (Staff photo)

House Passes Measure To Ease Pot Penalties

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The Michigan House gave strong endorsement Thursday to a bill that would sharply reduce penalties for marijuana convictions contained in a bill outlining total revision of state drug and narcotics laws.

But, while following substantially Gov. William G. Milliken's recommendations in a springtime legislative message, the reforms are opposed by a wide range of law enforcement agencies and are expected to face difficulties in the Senate. Stiffer measures are pending there.

The House, on a 77-20 roll call Thursday, voted to make first-offense penalties for marijuana possession a maximum of 90 days in jail, \$500 fine or combination of the two.

First-time LSD offenses would bring six-month terms, DISCRETIONARY POWER

In both cases a judge would have discretionary power to order probation and later expunge the case from the records.

And for the first time state drug abuse regulations and definitions would be placed substantially in accord with federal definitions.

Administration would be put in the hands of the Michigan Pharmacy Board, backed by a six-member advisory board able to marshal current scientific thinking and research on all drugs.

The measure sponsored by Rep. J. Bob Traxler, D-Day City and 45 colleagues, offers a mixture of mild penalties for young, presumably naive experimenters, but it would dish tough terms to hardened "mainliners" and "pushers."

Penalties in all cases, how-

ever, generally would be lower than present laws, on the theory that rehabilitation and persuasion can achieve more than what many have to come consider unrealistically harsh sentences.

CAN GET SENTENCE

An "unlawful use" sentence, for example, allows police now to seek one-year, \$2,000 fine sentence in marijuana cases where the regular 10-year, \$5,000 fine maximum seems inappropriate, or cannot be obtained.

Five categories, or schedules, of controlled substances are proposed in the bill.

The first, including heroin, marijuana and hallucinogens,

such as LSD, would be defined as having "high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States."

INCLUDE DEPRESSANTS

Schedule four would include depressants "having a potential for abuse" such as barbiturates, chloral hydrate and phenobarbital.

Schedule five would be defined as mixtures of "valuable medicinal qualities" that could contain narcotics in small quantities.

The bill would require the Pharmacy Board to follow U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidelines in assigning mar-

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 8)

Season's First**Crate Of Strawberries****Fetches Record \$1,620!**

The first crate of strawberries at the Benton Harbor fruit market this season was auctioned off for a new record of \$1,620 this morning.

A group of seven buyers pooled their bids in purchasing the 16-quart crate of Sunrise berries that were delivered early Thursday morning by Grower L.H. "Bud" Piggott of the Pearl Grange area.

The buyers were: Dick Willard of Farmers & Merchants

bank, Benton Harbor; Jack Ashley of Ashley Ford Sales, Fairplain Plaza; John Huffman of East End Supply, Benton Harbor; Jon Provenzano, seafood buyer on the market; Rod McAlvey of Dave's Fruit Haven, Benton Harbor; Jack Imbs of Imbs, Irwin, McDowell advertising agency, St. Joseph, and Bill Schumacher of Schumacher Construction Co., Benton Harbor.

The previous high price paid for the season-opening crate was \$1,500 in 1968. Last year the first crate brought \$1,000.

John Glassman of Eau Claire was auctioneer.

The record price, amounting

would fall in schedule three, defined as "low potential for abuse" and "currently accepted medical use."

Assessment Hearing To Come To BH

Southwestern Michigan property owners who have been about local tax assessment procedures can go over the heads of tax collectors and take their cases to the top this summer.

Benton Harbor has been selected as the site for a July 9 hearing by a Michigan House subcommittee studying assessment procedures. A series of nine hearings will be held around the state this summer. The exact site of the Benton Harbor hearing has not been announced.

A special unit of the House Taxation Committee, the subcommittee on assessment practices, already has contacted the Michigan Tax Commission and various organizations representing assessors, towns and cities.

It conclusion is that something is wrong with current assessing.

"There certainly is no question that there are serious flaws and inequities in property assessment," said Rep. Philip Maslin, D-Hazel Park, the chairman.

The subcommittee meeting schedule, following an opening session Friday in Lansing:

June 11, Muskegon; June 18,

Pontiac; June 28, Flint; July 9,

Benton Harbor.

July 19, Bay City; July 23,

Houghton; July 24, Marquette,

and Aug. 2, Detroit.

BERRIGAN FOR POPE**He Sticks By Sticker, But He Loses His Job**

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Washtenaw County Catholic Social Services has fired one of its social workers because he refused to remove a "Berrigan for Pope" sticker from his car.

George Mercier, 40, said he and several friends made up the bumper stickers as "a political statement" against the federal indictment of the Rev. Philip Berrigan, 47, on charges of helping to plan the kidnapping of presidential advisor Henry Kissinger.

Mercier had been given a June 1 deadline to scrape the bumper sticker off or lose his job. His attorney said he may seek relief from the courts if he is not reinstated.

Emmet Roche, director of Catholic Services for the Detroit archdiocese said, "I don't anticipate reversing the decision."

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waukee to Grand Haven.

PLANS SURVEYS

Tait said the laboratory, operated by the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, plans aerial surveys to spot large dieoffs so that towns in the paths would be warned and be able to gear up for the arrival of the drifting fish.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there's enough of a dieoff to cause some complaints this year," Tait explained.

"It won't be anything like 1967, but it could still be a mess for some communities," he added.

The alewife was first noted in Lake Michigan in 1949 and Tait said there is no method for control. "It's been happening in Lake Ontario for 50 years," the expert commented.

The cause of the massive dieoffs also remains uncertain. Tait explained that the small fish came into the Great Lakes from the ocean and "they probably haven't adapted very well."

Tait said the main cause of the dieoffs appears to be the fish's sensitivity to temperature changes after spawning in years when the food supply is low.

The laboratory has been studying alewives for eight years and Tait said that "the only sensible approach to control is manipulation of the alewife population through predator fish."

The alewife is about the only food left for all other fish in the lake, so let's convert them into food for game fish."

Lake Temperature

The temperature of Lake Michigan at the shoreline today is 55 degrees.

Wilbur's Ice Cream daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun. 12-10 p.m. Adv. Rmge., 224 Lakeview, S.J. Adv.

THE HERALD-PRESS

Editorial Page

W. J. Banyon, Editor and Publisher
Bob Lindenfeld, Managing Editor

Canada's Constitutional Flap

Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's mod prime minister, expects to meet in Victoria, B.C., on June 14th with leaders of Canada's ten provincial governments to continue discussions on constitutional reform.

The Victoria talks are completely different from the 1963 Con-Con at Lansing which was convened to update the language in our 1908 state constitution.

Victoria is concerned with the deeper problem of keeping the provinces, Quebec in particular, welded into a single nation.

Its overtones reach back into U.S. history.

Twice, American armies unsuccessfully invaded Canadian soil with the thought in mind of expanding U.S. territory.

Benedict Arnold led an expedition during the Revolutionary War which reached as far as Quebec city itself.

Arnold had counted on the French population to rally to his cause since only 14 years earlier the British had seized the countryside from France.

The natives failed to respond to this outside gesture; in fact, turned partisan against the invaders.

At length, Arnold's ranks retreated before the pressures of disease, hunger and lack of military supplies.

An incursion during the War of 1812 ended in one battle in which the English garrisons soundly thrashed the American intruders.

During our Civil War, a separatist movement of para-military proportion developed along the Dakota and Montana borderline.

Though Canadian troops quelled it, the Ottawa government made haste in 1867 to start construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway to bind the western territories to the national capital, and to obtain from the English Parliament the British North America Act.

BNA, more commonly styled as the Confederation Act by Canadians, united the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in dominion status. Patterned loosely after

Rare Tribute

Members of the House of Representatives in Washington are not noted for engaging in overly emotional responses to one another's speeches. In fact, they are very blasé about the run of the mill House business.

It was a standing ovation, a rare tribute, they gave Rep. Edith Green after she made a few short remarks about the demonstrators who converged on Washington early in May. A liberal Democrat from Oregon, Mrs. Green is not soft on those who break the law.

"The right to persuade is one thing," she said; "the right to coerce is another. They were a mob bent on exercising a wholly unacceptable method of civil disobedience and violence. To

Parks Popular

If acquaintances have that far away look, and you catch yourself daydreaming, it's that time of year again. The urge to travel, as old as man himself, multiplies to an almost unbearable compulsion for three or four months beginning about now. Millions of Americans will finally weaken and give in to it before the summer is over.

Considerably more than 100

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Caretakers of the park service receive their laurels in the growing armies of vacationers using the facilities. It may tax ingenuity to continue to provide for visitors who multiply by the millions every year. But there could be no better testimony to the service provided by this agency of government.

Looking For A New Fishing 'Ole



GLANCING BACKWARDS

SMALL MILLAGE REQUEST ON SJ SCHOOL BALLOT

^{—1 Year Ago—}
St. Joseph school district voters will be asked to act on one of the smallest millage increases ever put on the ballot in a school election Monday.

They will vote on a six-tenths of one mill levy for a building and site sinking fund for the purpose of providing better maintenance of the school plant.

PLANT FOR HEATH CO.

^{—10 Years Ago—}
Allan W. Greene, president of the Heath company, today said construction will start immediately on a \$500,000 addition to the Hilltop road facility.

Pearson Construction company, of St. Joseph, has the general contract for the 70,000 square foot addition Oct. 1 is the target date for completing the project.

ITALY PLANES BOMB CITADEL

^{—30 Years Ago—}

Italian bombers were reported today to have attacked Britain's great rock of Gibraltar, guarding the western entrance of the Mediterranean sea, while the Germans forecast aerial blows at the Suez canal in the East.

Linked with Wednesday night's heavy assault on the main British naval base at Alexandria these reports indicated that an Axis campaign to bottle up the British Mediterranean fleet may already be in motion.

FIRE

^{—40 Years Ago—}
Fire of mysterious origin early this morning destroyed the Niles Grain company mill in Niles, one of the oldest landmarks in south Berrien county.

SCHOOL PLAY

^{—50 Years Ago—}
The pupils of St. Joseph's academy presented a clever play, "For the Love of Johnny," at the school auditorium.

NEW RESTAURANT

^{—50 Years Ago—}
O. D. Wheeler has opened a new restaurant in the Preston building, formerly occupied by James Rex and will operate the place. A lunch counter as well as tables have been installed and Mr. Wheeler calls his eating place "The Star."

TO THE ISLANDS

^{—50 Years Ago—}
W. F. Sesser and Dr. A. H. Scott started Sunday night for Honolulu, going by boat to Chicago. Mr. Sesser goes to secure a collection of photographs in the interest of a large railroad corporation. They will be gone about two months.

RUTH RAMSEY

Today's Grab Bag

THE ANSWER QUICK!

1—Where is the Khyber Pass?
2—What is the largest of planets?
3—When was the League of Nations formed?

4—A Mexican jumping bean comes from what?

5—What is lethargy?

IT HAPPENED TODAY

On this day in 1942 the Battle of Midway began and the Japanese fleet suffered its first decisive defeat of World War II by the U.S.

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

S U A S I O N — (S W A z hen) —noun; act of advising or urging, or attempting to persuade.

YOUR FUTURE

The stars are less favorable than last year. Be wary. Today's child will be very intellectual and ingenious.

IT'S BEEN SAID

To entrust to chance what is the greatest and most noble would me a very defective arrangement.—Aristotle.

BORN TODAY

King George III, ruler of Great Britain and Ireland, is a figure from history who means one thing to the English and another to those of us in the Colonies."

TO THE COLONISTS

In America, George III will always be that king who reigned during the period of the American Revolution.

A LITTLE FROM

His birth in 1738 he was introduced into the squabbles that divided his father, Prince Frederick, and his grandfather, King George II. When George was 13 his father died and his education became a matter of political controversy, first with one set of instructors then with another.

He was described in his youth as "lethargic, an adjective that didn't fit him later as king."

His first actions on being called to the throne on the death of George II in 1760 showed his determination to "be a king." He dismissed William Pitt the Elder, as minister because he recognized him as a rival for power. Pitt in turn, later recognized the foolishness of George III's policies toward

the American colonies, and while he did not wish to grant them their independence, he tried to use his influence on their behalf.

Through bribery, patronage and coercion, George soon gained control of the government with the power to dismiss ministers at will. He did not, however, gain control of the people's affections.

The country stood with George in his insistence that Parliament, under his guidance, had the right to legislate for the colonies.

England, with almost all Europe against her, was forced after the battle of Yorktown to give up the struggle in America. Largely owing to the long ministry of William Pitt, the Younger, who wouldn't take direction from the king on important matters of policy, the power of the cabinet and Parliament grew. By 1788 George's insanity became unmistakable and, blind also, he died in 1820.

Others born today include Robert Merrill, Rosalind Russell and Paul Nordoff.

HOW'D YOU MAKE OUT?

1—Leads from Afghanistan into India.

2—Jupiter.

3—In 1919.

4—Certain Mexican shrubs.

Movement of larvae of a small moth in the plant gives the movement.

5—Drowsiness.

EDITOR'S MAILBAG

THANKS, DEAR LORD

When meeting a man the other day, He wanted to know a certain way. He gave me thanks, said he would find, But he could not see, he is blind.

I see flowers and the deep blue sea, The fields of golden grain I see, I see the wonders of this world, Me eyes do see, I thank you, Lord.

A wheel chair case, a blond young girl, She looked so pretty, her hair is curled, She cannot walk, she lost her feet, So I helped her across the street.

The sunset glow I like to see, My feet wherever I go, carry me, This world so beautiful, it is mine. Oh, Lord, forgive me when I whine.

U. Rosenhagen
601 Port St.
St. Joseph.

DR. COLEMAN

.. And Speaking Of Your Health

Are there any dangers to watching television too much? Because our teenage children spend at least three hours a day watching the tube, it is a constant source of argument.

Mrs. E. Ind.

Dear Mrs. E.,

studies indicate

that at television

viewing, within

sensible limits,

does not harm

healthy eyes.

The problem

of radiation

from color sets

can be evaluated

only through consumer groups and public health agencies.

The physical problems

of television addiction are not

nearly as great as the emotional

and educational penalties.

Undoubtedly, many programs

are of value when chosen with

discrimination. Such programs,

in themselves, educational, can

contribute to the development

of children, adolescents and

adults.

The greatest penalty paid by

your children, however, is that

the time spent watching television

could be used for so many

other exciting and worthwhile

activities.

Your children will eventually

appreciate the limits you establish

for their development.

Where can I get more information about donating eyes for science?

Mr. E. L. Ore.

JAY BECKER

Contract Bridge

notrump strongly suggests the possibility of slam, but partner is permitted to pass with a minimum.

3. Three diamonds. This response is a jump-shift rather than a jump-raise, is unconditionally forcing. The intention is to carry on to a slam with your 19 high-card points, even if partner keeps signing off, but at this point the final contract is uncertain.

4. Two spades. Obviously you would not make the bid without a part-score, but with it no other call can be seriously considered. Thus, it would be wrong to respond two hearts, which is not forcing and tends to deny spade support. Also, a jump to three spades would not be quite up to snuff, since there should be very little interest in a slam unless partner voluntarily bids over two spades.

5. Two clubs. This response is of course forcing, since game has not yet been reached. The intention is to make a slam try later on, depending on partner's rebid. Thus, if he bids two diamonds or two spades, you plan to bid three spades, which suggests a slam but is in no sense forcing.

The usually smooth exchange of information is sometimes hampered by the presence of a part score, but, more often than not, part-score bidding follows logical and uncomplicated lines.

BENNET CERF

Try And Stop Me

Critic and academician Louis Kronberger explains the subtle difference between college undergraduates and graduate students: A professor comes into a classroom and says a yawn "Good morning" to undergraduates and they answer "Good morning"; he says "Good morning" to graduate students, and they write it down!

The boys and girls in a cold Idaho college have been picking on each other a bit this semester. One of the cheerleaders for the basketball team didn't think it funny when a daring male

THE HERALD-PRESS

ST. JOSEPH, MICH. FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1971

Tax Bonanza Is Trouble In Paradise

Covert Township, Schools Fight Over Allocations

By STEVE McQUOWN
Paw Paw Bureau

PAW PAW — It has been over a week since Van Buren county's allocation board ended its tumultuous 1971 session.

And directly, or indirectly, the seven-member-board appears to have had a part in three matters that are likely to linger beyond the one-year life of the board itself.

The board:

— Set a precedent in dividing the 15-mill-allocation among the schools, townships and the county.

— Helped resurrect discussion about a fixed millage allocation, an issue which county voters defeated in 1966.

— Was drawn into a dispute between officials of Covert schools and the township.

RATES SET

As background, the board, a week ago Wednesday, set the final 1971 allocation rates at 5.15 mills for the county; the intermediate school district received .17 mills; South Haven and Gobles schools, 9.68 mills, and all other schools, except Covert, 8.68 mills; Covert School received 8.18 mills; and all townships requesting millage received one mill, except Covert township, which received 1.5 mills.

The allocations, except for the Covert school and township systems, are the same as those for the past three years.

But the deviation in the Covert school and township case is unprecedented, according to Elmer Van Dyke, superintendent of the intermediate school district and a member of the allocation board for 19 years.

Previously, he said, allocations to schools and townships were boosted or lowered uniformly. If one school was docked millage, all schools were.

By prevailing at the allocation meeting, Covert township may have established precedent of its own that other townships may try to duplicate in the future.

There is no ceiling on what townships can be allocated as long as they show a need and total allocations to units remains within the 15-mill limit.

It is further doubtful that the county, which this year is feeling a financial pinch, could be persuaded to give up any of its present allocation to the township.

That leaves only the schools which have a flexible and vulnerable allocation, some school officials contend.

"If you carried the precedent to the extreme," Van Dyke theorized, "... all schools, or any school, could be cut back to the statutory minimum of four

New Buffalo Cancer Drive Raises \$830

NEW BUFFALO — Mrs. Conrad J. Schmitz, chairman of the 1971 Cancer Crusade in New Buffalo, announced that the local drive has raised \$830.

Mrs. Ronald P. Oskela was the co-chairman for the drive.

Captains were Mrs. Rolland Oskela, Mrs. Ben D'Amato, Mrs. Dennis Gruse, Mrs. John Melgin, Mrs. Howard McCaslin, Mrs. Lawrence Lynch, Mrs. Forrest McCance, Mrs. Richard Gosswiller and Miss Beri Quantrell.

Traffic Deaths

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
June 4 State Police count
This year 729
Last year 840

County Treasurer A. A.

New System Cuts LMC Registration 'Red Tape'

A new telephone registration policy that shears through red tape has been adopted by Lake Michigan college.

Simply by calling the registrar's office at 927-3571 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday, June 5 or 6, summer session students can reserve their classes, according to Thomas McCourt, LMC registrar.

Following their calls, we will

send them material to fill out and mail back—but in the meantime their class choices will be registered and held for them.

"We are trying this new approach in an effort to make registering for college as easy and unbureaucratic as possible. This will eliminate waiting in lines and other traditional inconveniences of college registration."

The wide range of classes offered in the summer session, which begins June 14, is being carried in daily newspapers in the college district.

McCourt also pointed out that regular in-person registration for the summer session would take place at the Napier campus on Thursday, June 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Friday, June 11, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The school has a projected budget of \$966,600 for next school year.

According to figures from the county treasurer's office, Covert school during the current year has collected about \$812,051 from local taxes at a tax rate of 24.68 mills and a valuation of \$33,805,162.

In the coming year, it is



THREE OF A KIND: Triplets Lauretta, Laurence and Laurene Toney, children of Warren Toney, route 1, Berrien Springs, were among the 118 high school students graduated during commencement exercises Thursday in Berrien Springs. The triplets, the first born at Benton Harbor's Mercy hospital when they arrived in 1952, were a continuing story in this newspaper during their childhood years. Mrs. Toney, who died in 1960, gave birth to twins 18 months after the triplets were born.

At Berrien Springs

Unusual Graduates



FAMILY AFFAIR: Graduation 1971 is a byword for the Elmer Dykeman family of Berrien Springs. Dykeman, a Berrien Springs school teacher, is slated to receive a master's degree from Western Michigan University this spring. His wife, Lucille, center, was one of 32 community education students to receive a high school diploma last night during graduation exercises at Berrien Springs. His daughter, Kathy, was among the 118 seniors from Berrien Springs high school receiving diplomas in the same ceremony. (Staff photo)

(Eddie) Smith, who is also a member of the allocation board, said he would favor a fixed millage providing the county's share would be between 5.50 and 5.75 mills.

County officials say that it would probably take a 16-mill limit to satisfy all units with a fixed allocation proposal.

It would also take a sales job to convince county voters to accept the added mill of taxation.

Van Buren voters defeated in January 1966 a fixed allocation proposal with a ceiling of 16 mills.

The proposal would have set permanent allocation for the county at 5.75 mills; for townships, one mill; schools, nine mills; and the intermediate school district, 25 mills.

The issue was apparently lightly regarded by the voting public as 1,463 persons voted in favor of the proposal and 1,836 opposed it.

The fixed millage would probably have prevented a dispute

which has developed between school and township officials in Covert township.

The school board is scheduled to meet Monday night and Supt. Wood has said he will ask the board to appeal to the state tax commission the ruling which took the half mill from the school.

He insists the school needs the half mill, worth about \$19,500, and has charged that "politics" and "racial discrimination" played major roles in the loss of the half mill to the school which has a large black enrollment.

Covert Township Supervisor Jerry Sarno, and several allocation board members, have suggested that the school is not revealing its full financial strength, and has hidden away a surplus.

The board members, who asked not to be identified by name, said that the reluctance of Supt. Wood to identify the amount of interest the school will earn from investing operating funds may have been instrumental in the 4-3 vote which took the half mill from the school.

Dr. Wood, in a telephone interview, said he was unable to project the amount of interest the school will realize from investments.

But any surplus, he said, will be used up before taxes replenish the schools' treasury in February, and the school will have to borrow money, as most other schools, to meet expenses.

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Juicy Tax Pie Cause Of Fight In Covert Twp.

COVERT — Consumers Power company's huge new Palisades nuclear power plant has been hailed as a tax bonanza to Covert township.

It is that — definitely. But it's also becoming something of a snake in the Garden of Eden, trouble in Paradise.

Township and school officials are haggling over how they'll cut up the juicy tax pie.

UNIQUE ACTION

The feud at the dinner table erupted into the open last week when the Van Buren County Allocation Board took half a mill away from Covert schools and gave it to Covert township. The action was unique; Covert schools alone were slashed; heretofore all school districts in the county had been allocated uniform rates.

But Covert may not be the only school district ultimately affected. Schoolmen throughout the rest of the county fear a dangerous precedent has been set. (Their reactions are covered in an accompanying article.) Here is the background of conditions that led to the unique allocation split in Covert.

The school district, because of the added valuation primarily from the \$125 million nuclear power plant, is to have a \$39,026,973 valuation of property for the 1971-72 school year. The amount is up \$5,221,811 over the current figure.

According to allocation board figures, the district's new tax rate of 8.18 from the 15 mills handled by the board and 16 mills voted by district residents will produce \$943,672 in revenue, or \$131,621 more than raised this school year. The rate this year was a half mill higher, or 24.68 totally, because of the additional half-mill from the allocation board. It produced \$812,051 for school operations.

A majority of the allocation board voted to give the added half-mill to Covert township for its operations. The move was based on a township contention that funds were needed for improving service to township residents.

The board's precedent-setting decision brought charges from Covert school Supt. Dr. Lewis Wood that the cut was political and discriminatory. The official blamed Jerry Sarno, township supervisor, for engineering it.

STONE WALL

Wood said, after appearing before the allocation board, that it was like talking to a stone wall. Sarno, according to Wood, had opposed a recently approved millage issue in the district and was trying to enforce his will on the schools.

Sarno is not a member of the allocation board, but has been active in Van Buren politics for years.

Wood said the board, in acting, had questioned salaries paid by the district and other district costs. He denied the accusations and inferred that the district has a \$200,000 surplus which could be used for operations.

According to Wood, who is to be paid \$25,000 yearly starting July 1 as district superintendent, the loss of the half mill means a \$19,500 decrease in income for next year. This, he indicated, would come at a time when state aid is also to go down.

Wood also said teachers in the district are slated to get an 11.2 per cent pay boost this year. Right now, a teacher with a bachelor's degree gets \$7,350 to start.

Covert schools have the lowest students-per-teacher rate in the county, a factor which educators generally consider important in terms of improving educational system.

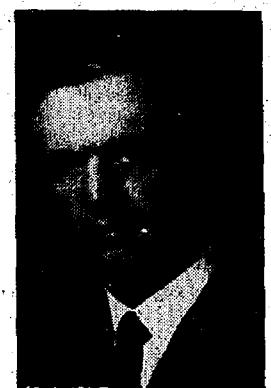
Receiving diplomas during the ceremonies will be 63 high school seniors.

Baccalaureate services for the class are slated for Sunday, June 6, at 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. It is the school's 104th graduation.

Kelley has been attorney general since 1962 and is president of the nationwide attorney generals organization.

Receiving diplomas during the ceremonies will be 63 high school seniors.

Baccalaureate services for the class are slated for Sunday, June 6, at 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. The alumni banquet will be held in the high school, starting at 8 p.m., also June 12.



ATTY. GEN. KELLEY

DECATUR — Frank J. Kelley, Michigan Attorney-General, is slated to give the commencement address to the 1971 graduating class of the high school here.

Schools Supt. Wayne Hellinga, who made the announcement, said graduation is set for Thursday, June 10, at 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. It is the school's 104th graduation.

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**Fire Levels
Vacant Casco Building**

SOUTH HAVEN — Fire early Thursday destroyed a vacant building at the former Karzon Resort, Baseline road, in Casco township.

State police from the South Haven post discovered the fire at 3:30 a.m. and said that the 12 by 60-foot frame structure was totally engulfed in flames.

The resort has not been used for about four years. Police believe that the fire was deliberately set.

Bangor Band Slates Annual Spring Show

BANGOR — The Bangor high school band, directed by Al F. Barney, will present its annual spring concert Tuesday, June 8 at 7 p.m. in the southwest lawn area off the parking lot at the high school. In case of cold or wet weather, the concert will be held in the auditorium.

The program will be narrated by David Sly, middle school vocal director.